

times deeply. But we always knew he was doing what he thought was right.

He embodies the humanitarian spirit that we all need a little more of in America and that gives public service its meaning and makes it worth the vicissitudes of public life. He is, I think, also, in the best sense, a committed Christian. He has followed the commandment to love the Lord and also to love his neighbor as himself.

Because he has tried to love his enemies, he has no enemies. And I think this town is the poorer for his leaving but the richer for his legacy. And I can only say, Senator, in the darkest hours of my life in the years ahead, I hope I can always remember the twinkle in your eye and the calmness of your demeanor and the generosity of your spirit and the honesty and openness and genuine charity with which you attempted to treat everyone and every issue. If all of us would be more like you, America would be an even greater nation.

Good luck, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:57 p.m. at the Sheraton Washington Hotel.

## **Proclamation 6909—Captive Nations Week, 1996**

*July 18, 1996*

*By the President of the United States  
of America*

### **A Proclamation**

This year marks the 38th commemoration of Captive Nations Week—a national expression of solidarity and support for all those around the globe who suffer the harshness of oppressive rule. Democracy and human rights have made great advances in recent years, thanks to the courageous efforts of determined men and women. Yet, despite these strides, far too many people throughout the world live without the benefits of freedom. As this century draws to a close, we must remember the millions who still live in fear and the countless children denied the prospect of a bright future by authoritarian regimes.

The United States' commitment to liberty has ensured over 200 years of justice and individual rights for our citizens. We have worked hard to realize our founders' vision of independence, and we cherish our proud history of offering support and encouragement to others who share that dream. In this post-Cold War era, when ethnic, racial, and religious conflicts pose new challenges to the global community, we must honor that legacy and continue to build a future of international stability and peace.

This week and throughout the year, let us rededicate ourselves to the promotion of liberty and universal human rights for those who suffer under the yoke of tyranny in other lands. The United States will continue to champion political freedom for all races, religions, creeds, and nationalities, pledging to keep faith with people everywhere who cherish the fundamental values that Americans have always held dear.

The Congress, by Joint Resolution approved July 17, 1959 (73 Stat. 212), has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating the third week in July of each year as "Captive Nations Week."

**Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton,** President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim July 21 through July 27, 1996, as Captive Nations Week. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities celebrating the principles on which this Nation was established and by which it will forever prosper.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of July, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-first.

**William J. Clinton**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 22, 1996]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 19, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on July 23.

## Remarks to the U.S. Olympic Team in Atlanta, Georgia

July 19, 1996

Thank you very much. Thank you. Thank you so much for that wonderful welcome. Thank you, President Clough for making all of our athletes feel so welcome at Georgia Tech. Thank you, Dr. Walker, for all the work you do. Thank you, Teresa, for sharing your birthday with us. [Laughter] And thank you, Bruce, for that introduction, for your leadership, and your example.

I was looking at Bruce standing up here—[laughter] obliterating the microphone and the podium. [Laughter] You know what I thought? I thought, if I'd had a body like that I'd have done a better job in politics. [Laughter] I should have gone in for wrestling earlier before I had to do it for a living. [Laughter]

You know, the first United States Olympics team in 1896 also did our Nation proud, even though they literally missed the boat for the first games. They got on the wrong ship in Hackensack, New Jersey. But the Lord was looking over them. Thank goodness they set off 2 weeks early, so they got there on time anyway. [Laughter]

Well, thanks to the wonderful people of Atlanta, we got around that problem this time because the Olympics came to us. And so I'd like to begin just by asking all of us to express our heartfelt appreciation to the people of Atlanta, the people of Georgia, people who have worked so hard to bring these games here and are doing such a magnificent job to make the world feel welcome in the United States. [Applause]

There have been a lot of nice touches to this day for Hillary and Chelsea and me already. For one thing, they arranged for me to meet all the members of our team who are from my home State or who went to school there. And I appreciate that. And I have to say, since I've got all these senior Olympians here, I brought another person from my home State who won the silver medal in the high hurdles in 1948, Clyde Scott. I'd like to ask him to stand up and be recognized, my great friend. [Applause] And also tell you, for you sports buffs, he's the only person who ever made first team

All-American football for two different universities. And it's not because he didn't make enough grades to stay in the first one. [Laughter]

I want to thank all of you for making it possible for the former Olympians who are standing behind me to be here. I owe one of them an apology. Mark Spitz came by to see me earlier, and when I saw him, I could only imagine—I kept remembering that picture of him with all those medals hanging around his shoulders—around his neck. And he informed me that he was supposed to carry the torch in, and he carried it as far as he could, but the Presidential motorcade prevented his final entry. So I think we should acknowledge Mark Spitz as bringing the Olympic torch in here. [Applause]

There's so many of the people standing behind me that I watched in the Olympics, that I admired. An awful lot of them, believe it or not, have come to the White House since I've been President because of something good and worthwhile they're doing today—always to help other people. I think maybe the most considerate act I've ever seen one of them perform was my friend Edwin Moses actually allowed me to run with him at one time, which I thought was uncalculated charity under the circumstances. [Laughter]

But I say that to make this point: When these Olympians come to the White House, many years after their days of Olympic glory, to advance the cause of young athletes or some other cause they're interested in, it's important that you know that we still celebrate what they stood for and what they did and what they stand for and what they do. I say that because by making this team, you become part of America's team. And for the rest of your lives, other people will look to you in a different way, in a good way. And you will have a chance not just in your field of competition, but you'll have a chance from now on to have an impact on people, especially young people, that can be profound and lasting and wonderful.

For some of these—you here, I'm sure you can hardly bear to think of it, these are your first Olympics. Some of you are veterans. Some of you will still be competing in the Olympics in the next century. But whatever your future holds athletically, I just want to